



# Armed Forces College of Medicine

## AFCM



# **Treatment of Hyperlipidemia**

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**Pharmacology**  
**Internal medicine specialist/ CU**

# INTENDED LEARNING OBJECTIVES (ILO)



**By the end of this lecture the student will be able to:**

- 1-Discuss different drugs and diseases causing hyperlipidemias
- 2- List management of hyperlipidemia
- 3- Compare the mechanism of action , the adverse effects and drug interaction of statins and fibrates
- 4-Relate the therapeutic uses of statins and fibrates to their clinical applications

**A patient 45 years old came to the clinic complaining of attacks of severe chest pain radiating to the left shoulder .**



- On examination : **yellowish fatty deposits** were found on elbow ,knees, tendons, with history that they appeared many years ago. In addition to their appearance around the eyelids and on cornea. He gave a history that this condition had occurred before and was diagnosed as **stable angina** also he is **hypertensive** and on **Atenolol** and that his father was complaining of the same condition.
- Laboratory investigations revealed **serum cholesterol** 380 mg/dl and **LDL** 222 mg/dl.
- He was diagnosed as a case of stable angina with familial hypercholesterolemia.

# Overview



- Coronary heart disease (CHD) is the leading cause of death worldwide.
- CHD is correlated with elevated levels of **low-density** lipoprotein **cholesterol** (**LDL-C**; “bad” **cholesterol**) and **triglycerides** and low levels of **high-density** lipoprotein cholesterol (**HDL-C**; “good **cholesterol**”).
- Other risk factors for CHD include:  
cigarette smoking, hypertension, obesity, and diabetes.
- Cholesterol levels may be elevated due to lifestyle



## Hyperlipidemias can also result from:

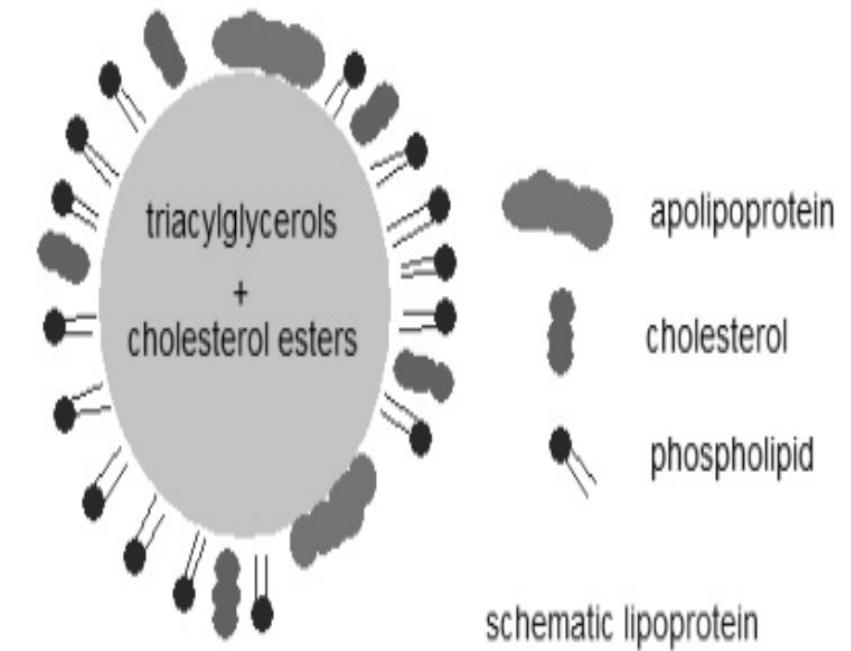
1. Primary: an inherited defect in lipoprotein metabolism  
**(Genetic)**
2. **life style factors** as **lack of exercise or diet containing excess saturated fats**, more commonly, from a combination of **Both**
3. **Secondary:**
  - a- **Diseases** : DM, hypothyroidism, nephrotic syndrome, obesity.

# Physiological Considerations:

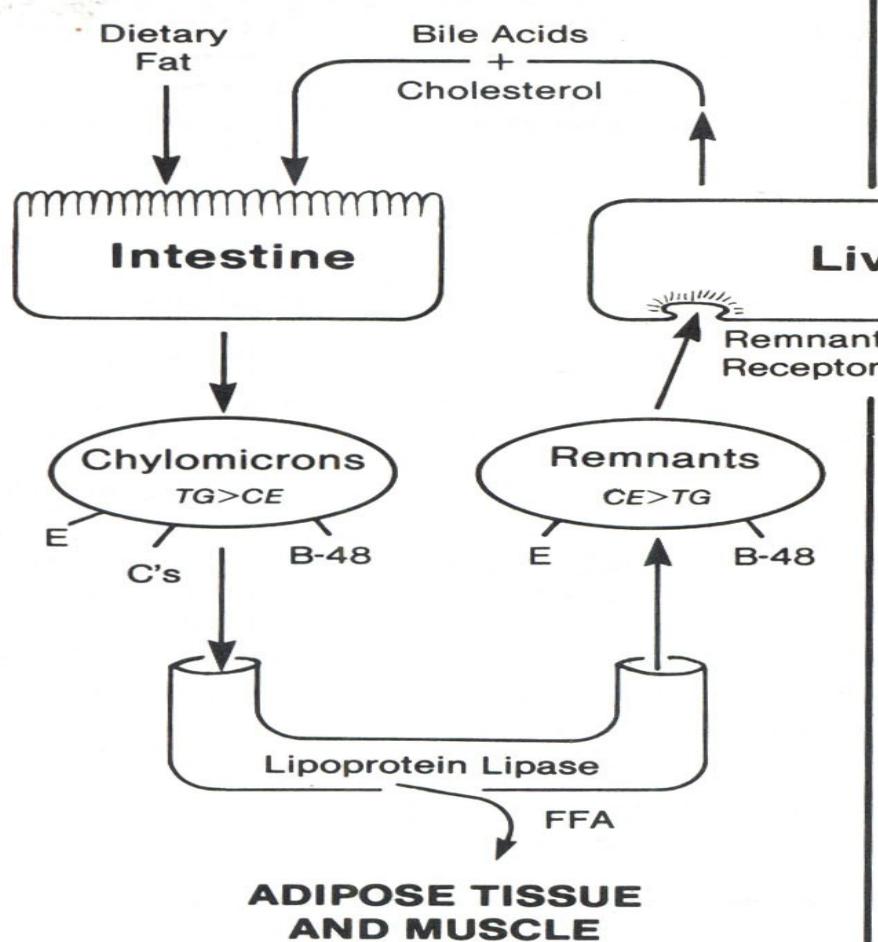


## 1. Plasma lipoproteins

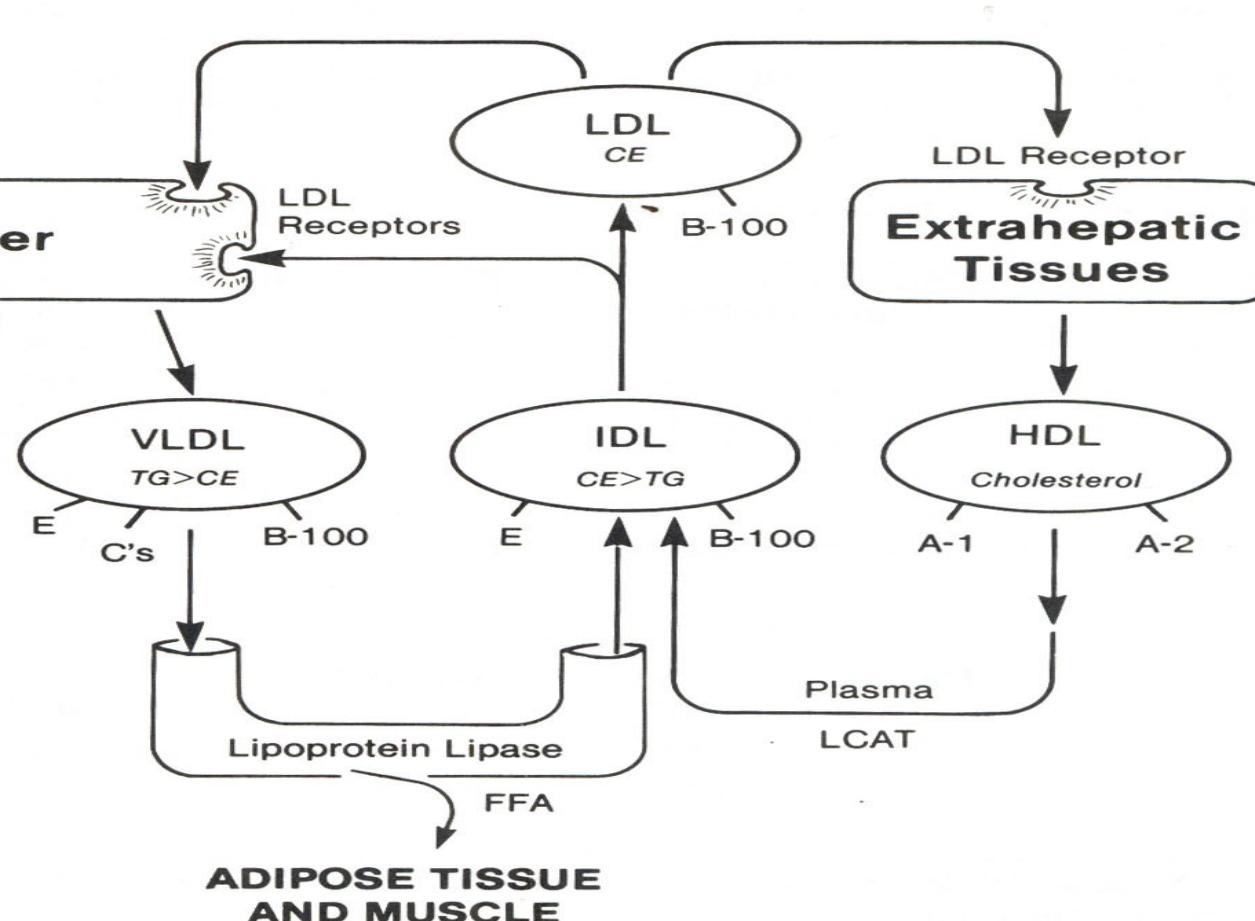
consist of **central core of Lipids**  
(triglycerides and cholesterol esters)  
encased in phospholipids, free  
cholesterol and proteins (called  
apolipoproteins).



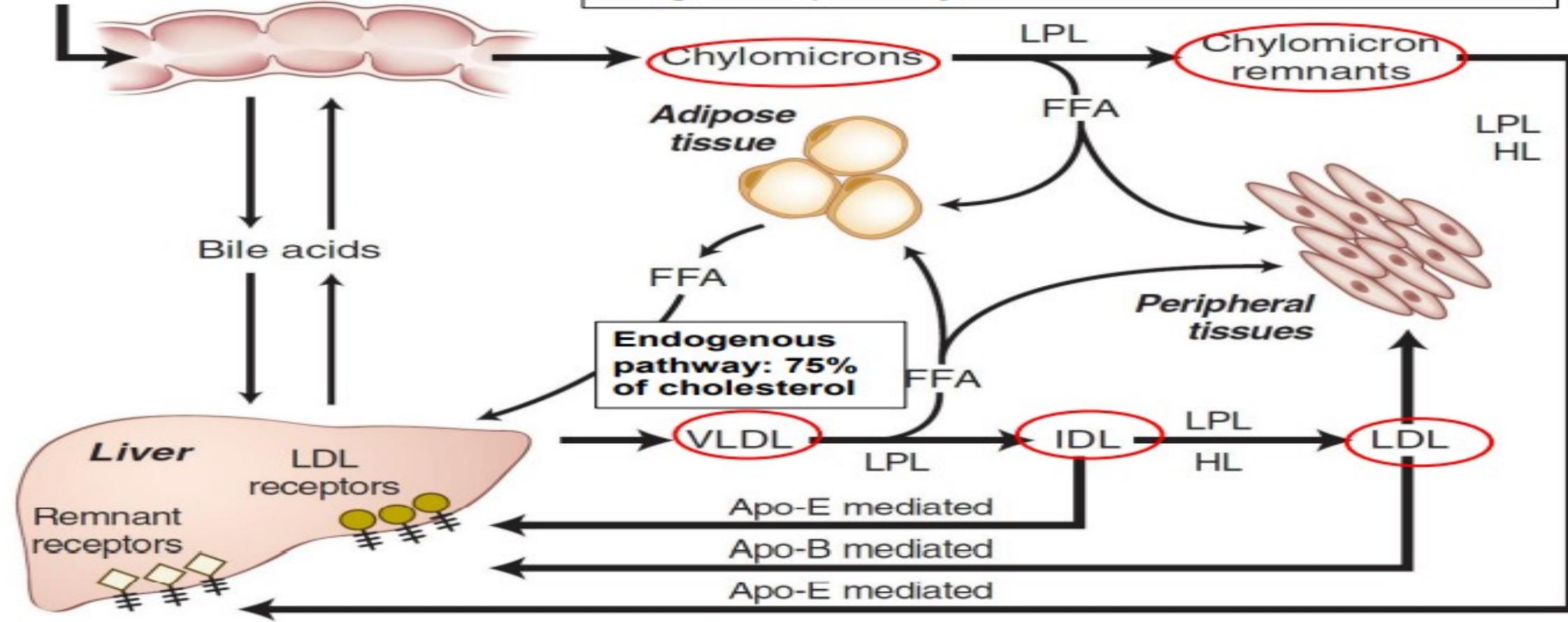
## Exogenous Pathway



## Endogenous Pathway



Dietary fat and cholesterol      *LPL: lipoprotein lipase, HL: hepatic lipase, FFA: free fatty acid*  
**Intestine**      **Exogenous pathway accounts for 25% of cholesterol**



# MANAGEMENT OF HYPERLIPIDEMIAS



## I. Diet

1. **Avoid saturated fatty acids** (animal fats).
2. **Give unsaturated fatty acids** (plant fats), e.g. olive oil, sunflower oil:

Polyunsaturated FAs increase conversion of free cholesterol (metabolically active) to cholesterol ester (inactive)  $\square$  hepatic free cholesterol  $\square$  compensatory  $\square$  LDL receptors  $\square$  uptake of LDL  $\square$  plasma LDL

3. **Regular fish oil in diet**: contain

## II. Exercise

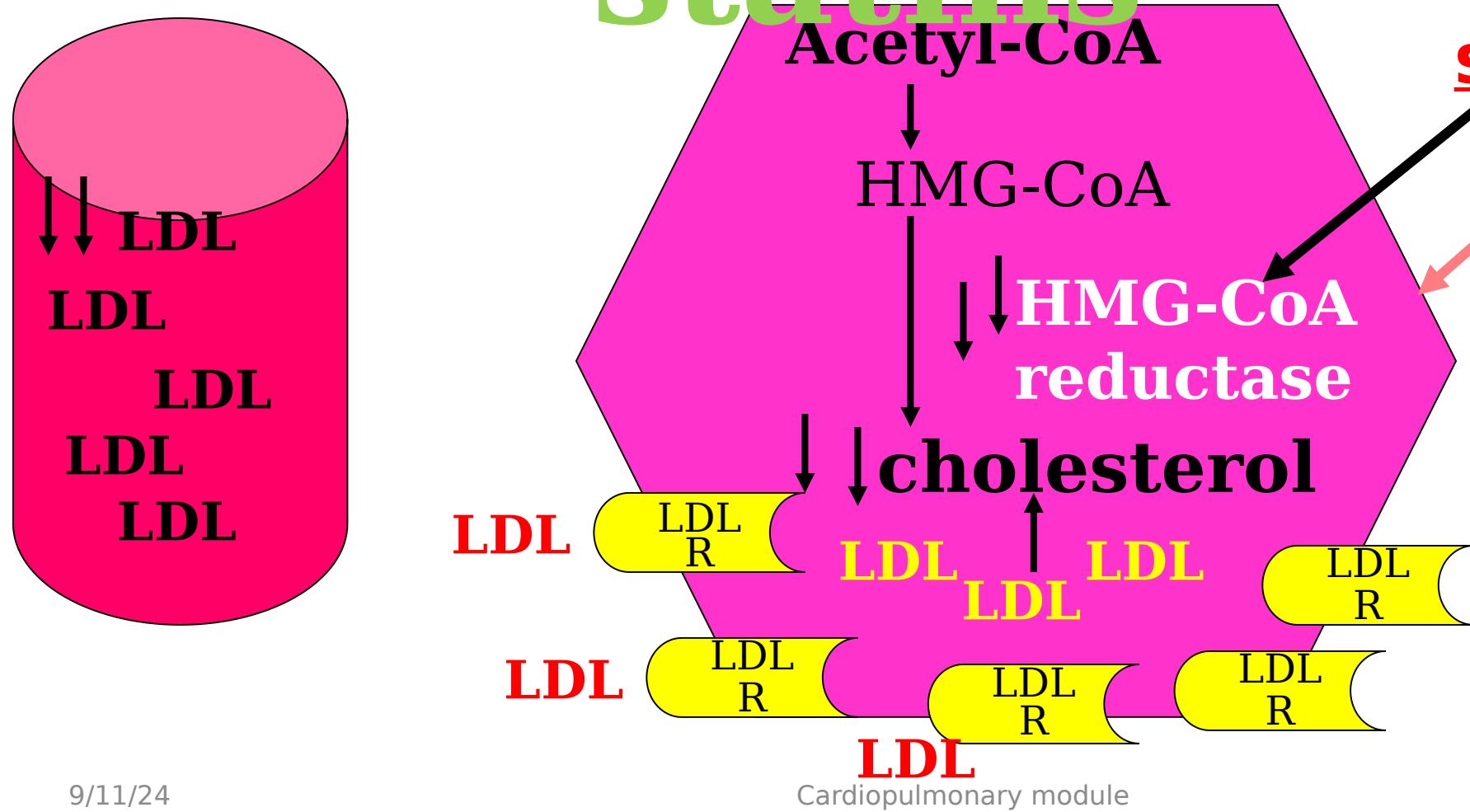
4. **Vitamins E & C** (antioxidants).

## III. Drug Therapy

Used when dietary and risk factor management fails.

$\square$  HDL  
 $\square$  insulin sensitivity delaying maturity-onset DM.

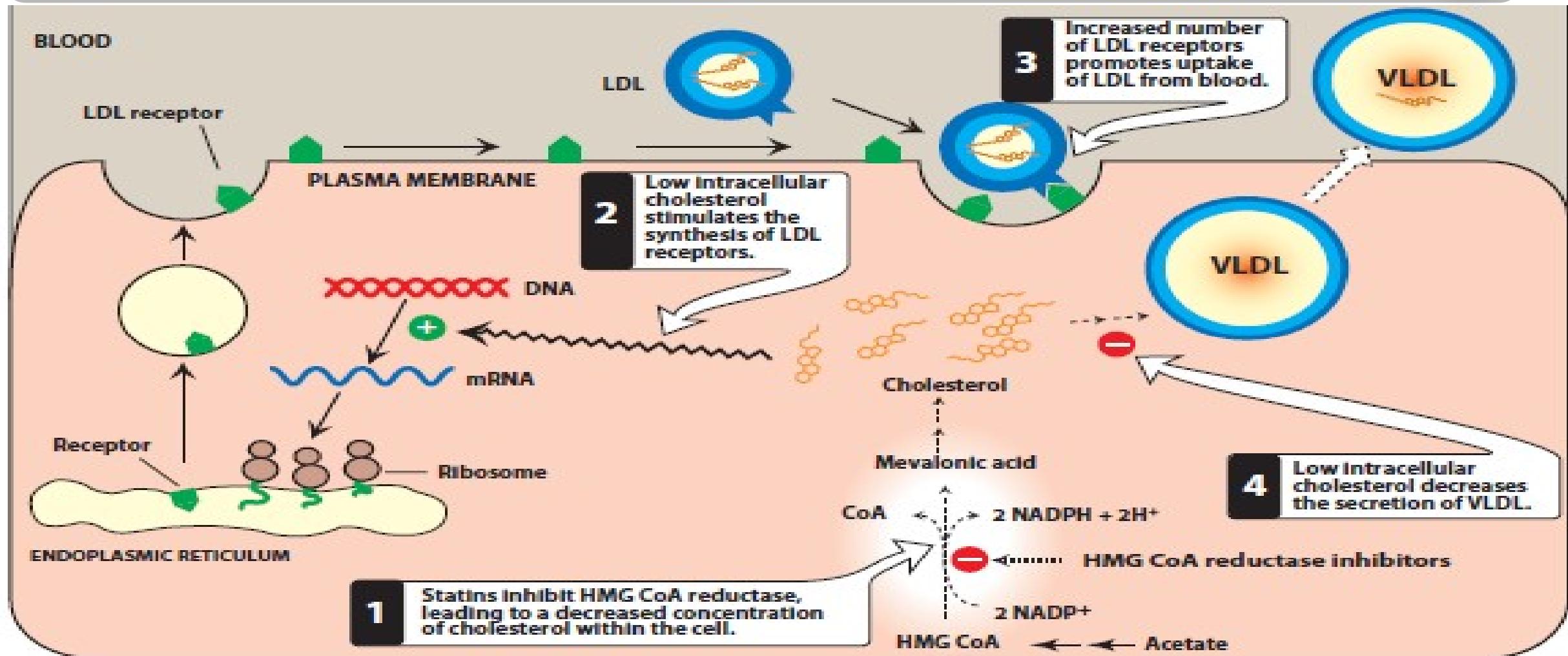
# I- MECHANISM statins



**statins**

*Rate limiting  
step in  
cholesterol  
synthesis*

# MECHANISM





# Mechanism of action:

a. Statins act by competitively inhibiting HMG-CoA reductase

b. HMG-CoA reductase is the rate-controlling enzyme of the mevalonate pathway, the metabolic pathway that produces cholesterol in the liver

Depletion of intracellular cholesterol → Number of LDL receptors on liver cells

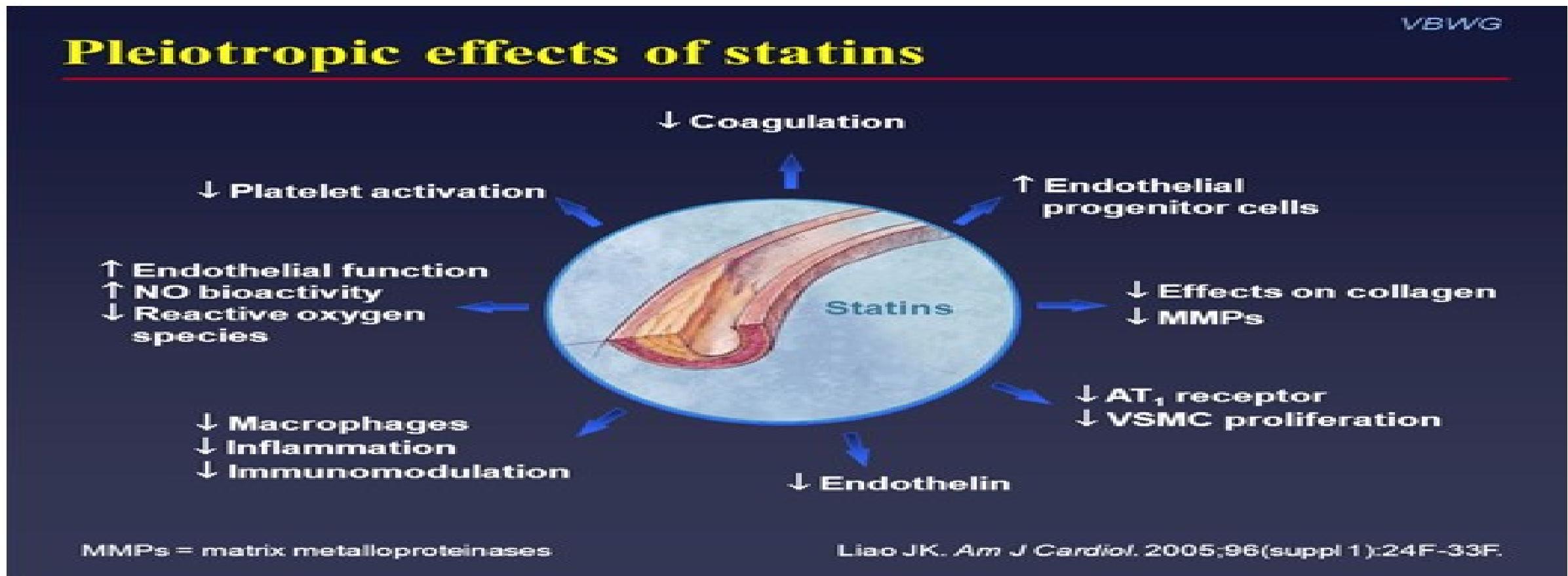
↑ LDL cholesterol in plasma

2. Plasma HDL levels.

3. Plasma triglycerides

e-Some actions of statins are unrelated, or indirectly related, to their effect on plasma lipid “**Pleiotropic effects**”.

Such actions include: improved endothelial function, reduced vascular inflammation, reduced platelet





# Pharmacokinetics:

- a. Absorbed orally.**
- b. . Half-lives range variable (1-3 hours) so All statins are taken orally at **bedtime** because of diurnal rhythm of cholesterol synthesis, except **atorvastatin**,  
because of their long half-life (14 ,19,12 hours respectively).**
- c. First pass effect, so primary action on liver.**  
Lovastatin and simvastatin are hydrolyzed to the active drug.  
The remaining statins are administered in their active form



# Uses:

e.g:

**Because these agents undergo a marked first-pass extraction by the liver, their dominant effect is on that organ**

- **Pitavastatin**
- **Atorvastatin**
- **Rousavastatin**
- **Lovastatin**
- **Simvastatin**
- **Pravastatin**
- **Fluvastatin**

**Familial *hyper*cholesterolemia**

**Initiate reductase inhibitor therapy immediately after *acute coronary syndromes*, regardless of lipid levels.**

# Side effects



- **1-Hepatotoxicity: often intermittent**

- ↑↑ **serum transaminases** up to three times normal

- .2-Myopathy & myositis: Besides muscle pain, the other major symptom of rhabdomyolysis is dark, red, or cola colored urine)**



# Interactions:

- 1-Potentiate the action of **oral anticoagulant** (by effect on platelet function) and **antidiabetic drugs** (displacement from plasma protein binding sites).
- 2- **Most** of the statins are metabolized through the cytochrome P450 (CYP) metabolic pathway; and **inhibitors** of this enzyme may **increase** the risk of **rhabdomyolysis**.  
3- In contrast, **pravastatin** (Pravachol) and **rosuvastatin** (Crestor) **do not** depend on the CYP450 pathway.

## Contra-indications:

**pregnancy and lactation**

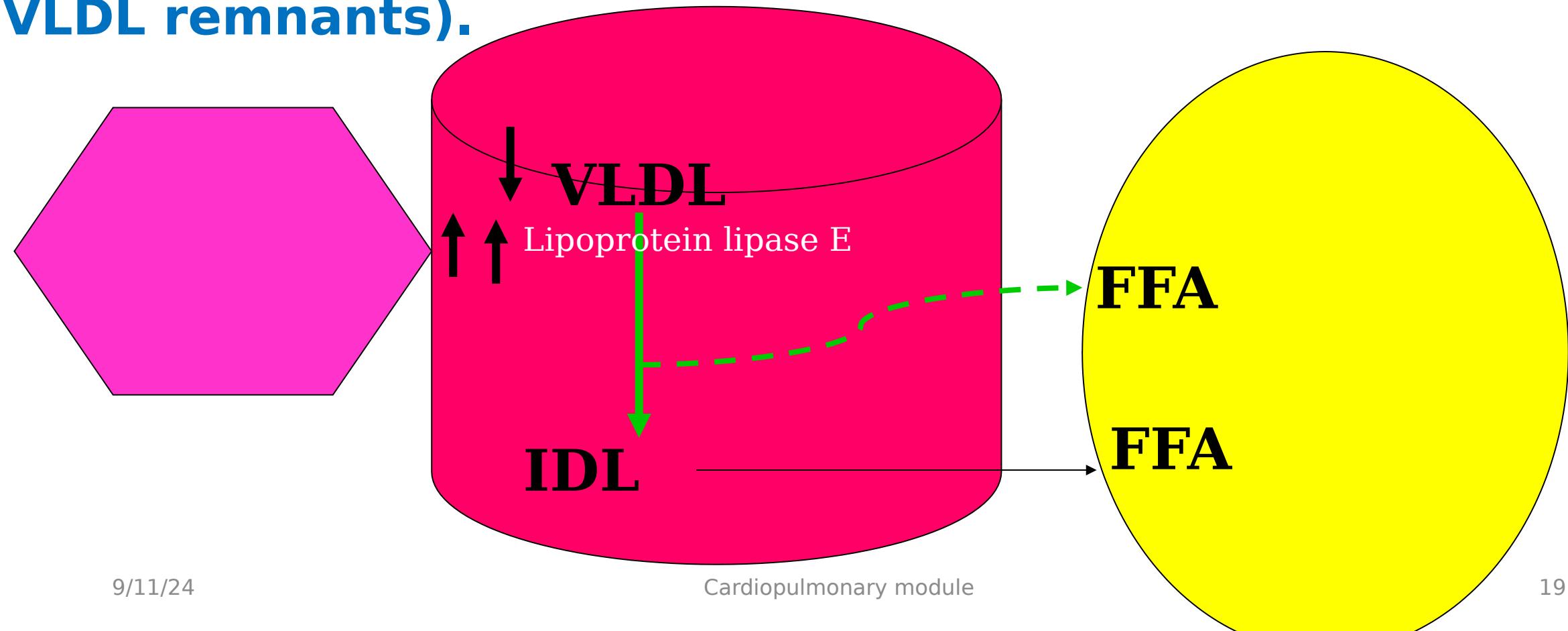
(cholesterol is important for normal development, and it is possible that statins could cause serious problems).

# II-Fibrates



## *MECHANISM*

**Increased catabolism of serum TG-rich proteins (VLDL and VLDL remnants).**

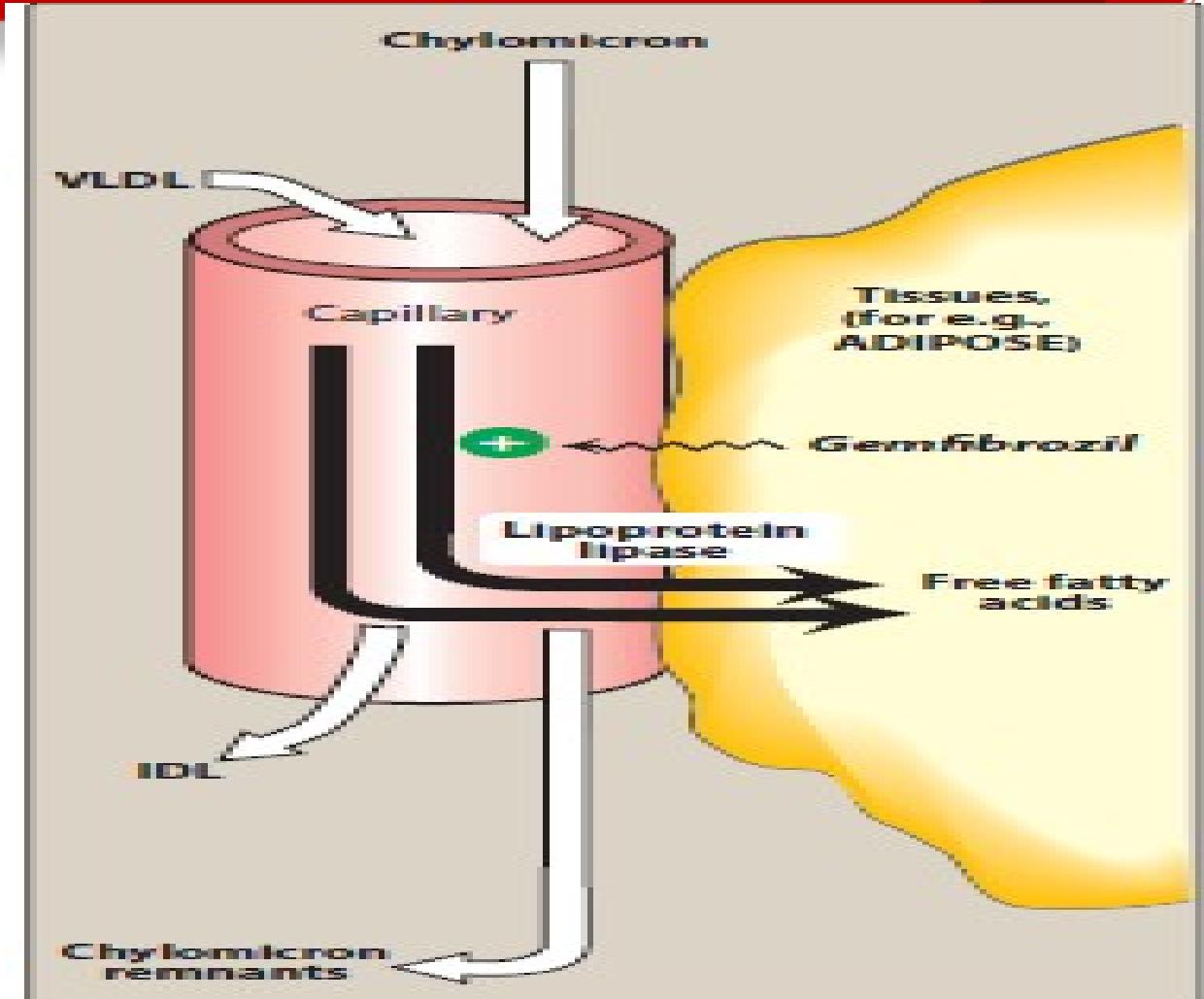


## Mechanism of action:

a. **Fibrates are agonists for peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor  $\alpha$  (PPAR alpha) in muscle, liver, and other tissues.**

b. Activation of PPAR- $\alpha$  signaling results in: **transcriptionally up-regulation of LPL, apo A-I and apo A-II.**

**-Increased lipoprotein lipase activity  $\rightarrow$   $\uparrow$  hydrolysis of TG  $\rightarrow$**



Whalen, K., Finkel, R., & Panavelil, T. A. (2018). Lippincott's Illustrated Reviews: Pharmacology (7th edition.). Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer



# Pharmacokinetics:

1. ***Gemfibrozil* and *fenofibrate* are completely absorbed after oral administration distribute widely and improved when taken with food, but *Fenofibrate* is more effective than *gemfibrozil* in lowering triglyceride levels.**
2. **bound to albumin.**
3. **Fenofibrate is a prodrug, which is converted to the active *fenofibric acid*.**
4. **Fibrates are metabolized in the kidney and should be avoided or used with caution in patients with kidney disease , excreted in the urine.**
5. **Pemafibrate is a selective PPAR- $\alpha$  modulator Selective peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor  $\alpha$  modulators (**SPPARM- $\alpha$** ), a newer, more potent fibrate.**

# Uses:



e.g:

- **Fenofibrate**
- **Gemfibrozil.**
- **Pemafibrate**

Familial

*Hypertriglyceridemia*

Non

*Mixed hyperlipidemia.*

# Side effects



1. **GIT upset (most common).**
2. **Cholesterol gall stone formation** (since fibrates increase the biliary cholesterol excretion), cholecystitis.
3. **Myopathy and myositis** →**elevated CK** especially when combined with statins.
4. **hepatotoxic** ( elevated liver enzymes).



# Interactions:

## **Potentiate the action of**

1. oral anticoagulant (decrease fibrinogen)
2. antidiabetic drugs

(displacement from plasma protein binding sites also, it stimulates B- oxidation in skeletal muscles improving glucose metabolism.)

## **Contra-indications:**

- a. **Pregnancy and lactation.**
- b. **Gall-bladder disease.**
- c. **Hepatic and renal dysfunction.**

# SUGGESTED TEXTBOOKS



- 1- Whalen, K., Finkel, R., & Panavelil, T. A. (2018) Lippincott's Illustrated Reviews: Pharmacology (7th edition.). Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer
- 2- Katzung BG, Trevor AJ. (2018). Basic & Clinical Pharmacology (14<sup>th</sup> edition) New York: McGraw-Hill Medical.



**THANK  
YOU**